THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Tuesday, the 10th March 1959.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall start with question No. 123.

Rattling of doors in Madras City.

* 123 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there was rattling of doors in many buildings in the City of Madras on one or two occasions during the last two months;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this rattling was due to the detonation of time-barred bombs;

(*c*) if so, the place where actually the detonation took place; and

(*d*) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such shocks to buildings?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The Government have seen reports in the newspapers and received a few oral representations about the rattling of doors in many buildings in the City on some days in July and August 1958.

(*b*) & (*c*) Some of the important newspapers of Madras reported that this rattling of doors was due to the vibrations generated by the demolition of old bombs in the Satyavedu forest area about 30 to 35 miles from Madras City by the Indian Air Force Unit at Gummidipundi. The Government have ascertained from the Indian Air Force authorities at Madras that the Indian Air Force Unit at Gummidipundi had to demolish some of the 4,000 lb. bombs as these were considered highly dangerous to store due to exudation and climatic effects on the main fillings of these bombs.

(*d*) The Indian Air Force authorities have reported that there would not be any more demolition of such bombs in the Satyavedu forest. As such, the Government consider that no further action is necessary in the matter.

Regional Food Laboratories

* 124 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to start regional food laboratories in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the places where they are proposed to be located?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Coimbatore.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : For the efficient administration of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and considering the need for the analysis of food, will the Government consider the desirability of starting District Public Health Laboratories so that food samples may be tested at the district headquarters instead of being sent to Guindy?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : For the opening of district laboratories sanction has been given and they will be opened at six places—Vellore, Palayamkottai, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Nagercoil and Tanjore.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : How far have the Government gone with regard to the starting of public health laboratories at the places mentioned by the Hon. Minister?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I find that a few of them are actually working now. As regards others, I have asked for the information which has not yet arrived.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : What are the District Public Health Laboratories which are actually functioning now and what are the new ones which are proposed to be opened this year?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The proposal is to open two more laboratories—one at Cuddalore in South Arcot district and the other at Dindigul in Madurai district. Their functions are, examination of bacteriological, serological and clinical material received from hospitals, dispensaries, health units or any other public health organisation; examination of food samples under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and chemical and technological examination of samples of water and training of technical personnel of different categories.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : With reference to the answer of the Hon. Minister, will he kindly enlighten us on how far the proposal to start a Public Health Laboratory at Coimbatore has gone till now?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : There was some difficulty about getting a suitable building. Now it has been settled. The site has been fixed and the estimate for the scheme is Rs. 6·75 lakhs. I think the work can be taken up hereafter.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : What has become of the proposal to take over the Food Laboratory at Coonoor under the State Government?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is not a Food Laboratory. The Nutrition Research Centre, I understand, is going to Hyderabad.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : What will be the qualifications of those people who will be in charge of these laboratories?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The qualifications necessary for testing all that I have stated just now. (Laughter).

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : A technician also knows how to test. Does it mean that the Hon. Minister thinks that technicians will be in charge of the laboratories, and not qualified doctors?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We should ask questions.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Qualified doctors *plus* technicians who are trained for the purpose will be there.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : What are the circumstances under which the Research Centre at Coonoor has gone to Hyderabad?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I do not know whether it is worth while to go into the circumstances. It has gone already and we need not probe further into the matter.

SRIJATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : May I know the number of qualified persons to be absorbed in these laboratories?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Madam, I want notice. (Laughter.)

Taxis

* 125 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to have the roofs of all taxis plying in the City painted yellow and bodies black; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter stands?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The proposals of the Regional Transport Authority, Madras, are being examined.

SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : சில சமயங்களில் இந்த டாக்ஸிகளில் ஏறி இறங்கும் போது கையில் வைத்திருந்த சாமான்களை விட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள்; அந்த டாக்ஸியை மீண்டும் கண்டுபிடிப்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே; அந்த டாக்ஸியில் பொருத்தப்பட்டிருக்கும் நம்பரை டிரைவர் பக்கத்திலும் சிறு எழுத்தில் எழுதுவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a supplementary question.

Smoking inside the buses

* 126 *Q.*—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Electricity be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued any orders prohibiting smoking inside the buses plying in the Madras State; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken to enforce them?